

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BILL LYNCH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Lynch, for receiving the title of Sonoma City Alcalde in 2023.

Mr. Lynch has dedicated his life to the people of the city of Sonoma, California. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Lynch served in the U.S. Navy. Upon his return home, Mr. Lynch was a volunteer firefighter and served on countless boards and commissions. Mr. Lynch has devoted himself to the city of Sonoma for decades.

Mr. Lynch worked as the publisher of the Sonoma Index Tribune for 40 years, carrying on a 128-year family legacy of running the city paper. Throughout his career in journalism, Mr. Lynch developed numerous relationships throughout the city. He faithfully reported on the issues that were important to the people of Sonoma, even when it made him unpopular with the City Council. In 1998, Mr. Lynch wrote a story about a resort that was to be built in the city, which led to a citywide protest to prevent the completion of the deal. Although it sometimes made enemies, Mr. Lynch was never afraid to stand up for what he believed to be in the best interest of his community.

Mr. Lynch has also given back to Sonoma in many other ways in addition to his profession. He started the Youth Soccer Program and formed a committee to establish the modern Vintage Festival which celebrates the rich wine history in Sonoma Valley. He also worked on several committees which raised money for the Boys and Girls Club and is instrumental in raising funds to keep Sonoma Valley Hospital's doors open.

Mr. Lynch is a family man, with a heart as "big as his community". For all his years of public service, Mr. Lynch does not ask for awards or honors, but is happy to work behind the scenes for the good of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Bill Lynch has devoted his life to our Sonoma community. I am proud to call Bill my friend. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE MERITED SERVICE AND PROMOTION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BRIEN PURCELL HORAN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend and fellow public servant, Brien P. Horan, who has just been promoted to Brigadier General on the military

retired list of the state of Connecticut. On March 20, 2023, Brigadier General Horan invited me to join Major General Francis Evon, Commanding General of the Connecticut National Guard and Adjutant General of Connecticut, in pinning on his new rank at the promotion ceremony. This milestone event occurred at the William O'Neill State Armory, the headquarters of the Connecticut National Guard in Hartford, Connecticut, just adjacent to the State Capitol. Becoming a general officer represents not just a promotion, but recognition of his lifetime of service to our nation, at home and overseas, and to our state, which I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating.

Born in 1953 to Arthur and Eileen Horan, Brien was raised in the Hartford area where he was infused with a family tradition of public service. His father, a World War II veteran, was also an officer on the military retired list of Connecticut, as was his grandfather, a veteran of the Spanish-American War who was commissioned an infantry officer of the Connecticut National Guard back in 1899. Brien's father was a longtime aide to Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut's Governor and U.S. Senator, and for several years ran the latter's Connecticut Senate office, where he was in charge of constituent services. His mother Eileen was for more than 20 years the registrar of voters in the Town of West Hartford, re-elected many times and recognized across the state for her expertise in election law. I first befriended General Horan as fellow altar boys at St. Timothy's Church in West Hartford in 1965 and as classmates at Northwest Catholic High School. Our long friendship gave me an opportunity to witness how deeply ingrained his parents' work as public servants affected his future desire to serve our nation. After high school, he earned a bachelor's degree from Amherst College, spending a year of college at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, where he honed his fluency in the French language. After college, our educational paths crossed again, at the University of Connecticut's School of Law, where we both received our law degrees, mine in 1978 and his in 1979.

After law school, Brien was commissioned as a reserve officer in the Army JAG Corps. In 1981, Captain Horan transitioned to active duty and served in West Germany for two years as a military prosecutor. Then from 1983 to 1985, he was in charge of the legal section of the U.S. Defense Attaché Office at the American Embassy in Paris. After completing 4 years of active duty in Europe, he would remain in the Army Reserve as a judge advocate officer for another 26 years, including 10 years as a Colonel.

As a Colonel, he was for several years the senior Army Reserve judge advocate assigned to U.S. Army Europe. Before that, from 2000 to 2004, he was the commander of the Army Reserve's JAGC unit for the six New England states, the 3rd Legal Support Organization in Boston. He directed the 3d LSO's provision of legal services to thousands of New England reservists mobilized after the 9/11 attacks. During Brien's command tenure, General Eric

Shinseki, the Army Chief of Staff, chose the 3d LSO as one of only two Army Reserve units to receive the prestigious 2002 Army Chief of Staff Award for Legal Assistance. Before his promotion to Colonel, Brien also served as an international law faculty member at the JAG School in Charlottesville and as a judge advocate in the Army's Criminal Law Division at the Pentagon. He was awarded numerous decorations, including the Legion of Merit and four Meritorious Service Medals.

In addition, Brigadier General Horan had a long association with the Connecticut Military Department, including attachment to the Connecticut National Guard, service in the state military, and appointment as a Colonel Aide-de-Camp to the Governor.

In civilian life, Brien managed to alternate his private law practice with public service. He was long a partner in the Hartford law firm of Robinson & Cole and also was a vice president in the law department of The Hartford, one of the state's leading insurance carriers. But in the late 1980s, he worked as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department, with diplomatic assignments at our embassies in Kingston, Jamaica and in Paris. And at the end of his legal career, he returned to public service, as a U.S. Administrative Law Judge sitting in New Haven, Connecticut. He retired as a judge in November 2020.

Mr. Speaker, heartfelt congratulations are in order to Brigadier General Horan and to his sons, Nick and Doug, on his promotion to this high state rank and for his long military service. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing Brigadier General Brien Horan's long and distinguished service to our Nation and to my State.

RECOGNIZING THE LATE JAMES "KUCH" KUCHWARA FOR HIS SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, Today I honor the late James "Kuch" Kuchwara for his military service and his lifelong service to his fellow veterans as commander of VFW Post 25. Kuch passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 4, 2023.

Kuch, the son of the late John and Rose Kelly Kuchwara, was born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Scranton Technical High School with the Class of 1968. Answering the call of duty to serve his country, Kuch enlisted in the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam War. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, he worked in the construction and contracting industry. For more than 30 years, he was employed as a crew leader for the Pennsylvania American Gas and Water Company.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

He was a proud member and president of the local IBEW Union for UGI and a member of the masonry union.

Kuch is best known around Scranton as the commander of the General Theodore J. Wint VFW Post 25, one of the oldest VFWs in the country. He led this very active VFW post of more than 500 members in both social, ceremonial and community service endeavors. He has been at the helm of many of the post's initiatives, like hanging hometown heroes banners along streets in North Scranton, recruiting younger veterans to join his post and getting a bridge named for General Wint, a brigadier general and the post's namesake. Kuch and VFW Post 25 have championed one of the City of Scranton's most ambitious veterans' recognition projects, a 7-foot-tall and 33-foot-long granite monument with the names of nearly 1000 Scrantonians who died in battle.

Kuch has been a long-time dedicated supporter of veterans' issues from all angles. Just last year, he stood by me as I announced the Camp Lejeune Justice Act. Men like Kuch have taught me a great deal about what it means to be an American and a public servant.

I am humbled to join with Kuch's family and friends, VFW Post 25 and the entire community in honoring the life and service of this American patriot. He leaves behind an indelible legacy and his honor, integrity and steadfast leadership won't soon be forgotten.

HONORING ANITA GRANT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anita Grant, who is retiring after 31 years of service to Lake County as a member of the county's legal counsel.

An Iowa native, Ms. Grant started her career with Lake County, California, in 1992 as a Deputy County Counsel. She quickly stood out as an exceptional attorney, oftentimes working with county officials on issues, like criminal justice and civil rights. Her hard work and preparation as a litigator were essential in ensuring strong representation for the interests of Lake County at the local, state, and federal levels of the legal system.

Ms. Grant's commitment to public service was unrelenting, especially during election years where she would provide an unbiased review and explanation of the ballot propositions that have appeared in front of Lake County voters. She also helped with the operation of ballot counting equipment to make sure all votes could be quickly and accurately counted. She also provided special training to officials on navigating through the complex set of laws and regulations that they had to adhere to while running elections.

Ms. Grant's leadership, legal expertise, and dedication have made her an indispensable member of our community. She always maintained an open-door policy for county officials who wanted to hear her advice and legal guidance on important matters. Her commitment could be seen in her strong work ethic as she rarely missed work, forfeited vacation leave, and worked on weekends and holidays to get the job done despite the heavy workload she faced.

Ms. Grant's legal work as County Counsel has helped the residents of Lake County by supporting the county's financial well-being. Her assistance in supporting better financial circumstances for Lake County has also helped the county afford to reliably provide necessary services for its residents.

Mr. Speaker, Anita Grant has been an indispensable part of Lake County's community for the past 31 years and her service will be fondly remembered as she heads into retirement. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

CELEBRATING WAYNE WEBBER'S SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTER FOR THE BELLEROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic accomplishments and career of Wayne Webber.

Nearly 3 decades ago, Mr. Webber moved to Bellerose Village with his wife of 35 years and 2 kids: Sarah and Merrie. On top of being a decorated fireman, Mr. Webber worked as a Medical Technician for 33 years.

Mr. Wayne Webber has been a member of the Bellerose Volunteer Fire Department for 28 years on Long Island. Throughout his time there, Wayne has moved up the ranks, holding many different positions, which is a testament to his character and dedication to serving his community.

Mr. Webber has managed a variety of programs and initiatives, both in corporate officer positions and Firematic officer positions. Within the corporate office, Mr. Webber was the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President and is now the current President. While working as a Firematic officer, Mr. Webber served in every single position: 1st and 2nd Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and Chief of the Department from 2002 to 2007—right after September 11.

While bravely serving the Bellerose community, Mr. Webber managed a variety of programs and initiatives that are vital to the Department. Mr. Webber was responsible for developing, supervising, and conducting 40 fire drills within a year. These drills incorporated all phases of training that are essential in preparing for the next incident. As Chief of the Department, Mr. Webber is the Incident Commander for four weeks of training at the Nassau County Fire Academy for Bellerose firefighters and three other fire departments. Mr. Webber was appointed in 2019 as the Bellerose Village Fire Commissioner and currently holds the position.

As an Ex-Chief of the Island Park Fire Department, I understand the importance of Mr. Webber's contributions to the Bellerose Fire Department and the surrounding community. Wayne's long career is inspiring to other firefighters and his neighbors, but more importantly, Wayne embodies the characteristics of an excellent fireman.

On behalf of New York's 4th District, I am esteemed to recognize his astounding career and his brave service as a firefighter. I wish Wayne a bright, healthy, and exciting future.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT CORNETTI

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Robert D. Cornetti of Roswell, Georgia, "Bob," to his friends.

Mr. Cornetti served in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War, where he received the Good Conduct Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal with Three Bronze Stars, and the National Defense Service Medal.

On April 27, 2023, Mr. Cornetti celebrates his 90th birthday. I want to extend my congratulations, and the best wishes of Congress to Bob and his entire family for this special occasion.

May America and my great State of Georgia be forever blessed with patriots like Robert Cornetti, and may God give him many happy returns.

HONORING ROBERT BLATTNER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Bob" William Blattner, who passed away on February 2, 2023, after 67 remarkable years of life.

Bob was born in Erie, Pennsylvania to Bill and Mary Blattner. He spent his early childhood in Walnut Creek, CA, and moved to Pittsburgh, PA in 1964. Bob attended Yale University, where he studied medieval European history and captained the swim team.

Bob began his career of service as a reporter after receiving his master's in Journalism from University of California Berkeley. He wrote for the Sacramento Union, the Daily Press of Newport News, Virginia, and the Sacramento Bee.

In 1994, Bob began working as an education consultant, helping public school districts and county offices navigate the intricacies of school finance. In 2006, he founded Blattner & Associates, which lobbied lawmakers on behalf of public schools. Bob was also a frequent resource for reporters seeking insight on complex education stories and regularly hosted high school students to offer them a glimpse of life inside our state's Capitol. On Fridays, Bob could be found walking the halls of the Capitol in shorts and flip-flops explaining that "the members aren't here anyway".

Bob was married to his beloved wife Ann for 30 years, and is survived by their sons, Jack and Robby, and his brother John. Those who knew Bob will remember him smiling. He enjoyed spending time and energy on the things he valued: music, good food and drinks, history, time in the water, and above all else, his friends and family.

Bob was a compassionate public servant with a great sense of humor, and his upbeat attitude was contagious. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper that we honor and thank Robert "Bob" William Blattner for his life of service to our grateful community.

RECOGNIZING 22 YEARS OF SERVICE OF COCONUT CREEK COMMISSIONER BECKY TOOLEY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 22 years of service by Coconut Creek Commissioner, Becky Tooley.

Born in 1948 in Newark, Ohio, Mayor Tooley has a long history of service to the community of Coconut Creek. Before her election to the Coconut Creek City Commission, she served on the City's Environmental Board and the Planning and Zoning Board.

Her public service continues beyond city government, mentoring the youth of Coconut Creek at the Atlantic Technical Center and Coconut Creek High School. She also serves on the Boards of numerous community organizations, including the Coconut Creek Woman's Club, Alzheimer's Family Center Board of Trustees, Northwest Medical Center, Coconut Creek Democratic Club, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, and the board of the Broward League of Cities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Mayor Becky Tooley for her outstanding service to the people of Coconut Creek in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

HONORING AIYANNA ZAKIA SANDERS—A CELEBRATED SCHOLAR

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Women's History Month to celebrate an incredible woman from California's 37th Congressional District, Aiyanna Zakia Sanders. Aiyanna was born in Los Angeles, California, in 1997. In just 25 years she has made incredible strides. In 2015, Aiyanna was an honored graduate from the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies High School; In 2019, she graduated from Emory University with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and African American Studies. Recently, in 2022, she and her family celebrated her graduation from the prestigious Harvard Law School.

While pursuing her rigorous education, Aiyanna went the extra mile to serve her community. While at Emory University, she was a member of the local NAACP chapter, the Head Step-Mistress of Ngambika, Co-founder and President of the Black Pre-Law Society, and a member of Black Mental Health Ambassadors. Proudly, Aiyanna also became a member of the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. while at Emory. While studying law at Harvard University, Aiyanna was the Secretary of the Black Law Student's Association and an editor of the Black Letter Law Journal. Her many extracurricular activities and roles demonstrate her immense talent and leadership capabilities.

In addition to her extensive leadership, Aiyanna has earned numerous awards for her commitment to public service. She was awarded the Dr. Herman L. Reese Community Service Award, the Delta Research and Edu-

cational Foundation Golden Anniversary Award, and the 2018 NAACP Peoples Award. In 2019 she was honored as a California Change Lawyers Scholar and received the Graduating Woman of Excellence Award. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements and dedication of this incredible woman.

Beyond her academics, Aiyanna is a cherished daughter, granddaughter, and friend. Her parents, Mr. Aaron L. and Mrs. Chawn B. Sanders, her grandparents, Mr. Clifton Byron Ray, III and Mrs. Willa Ray, and countless friends and sisters have rooted for her along the way. I stand here today, proud. When we talk about representation, this is what we mean. Aiyanna is a trailblazer, an inspiration, and a role model for many. I thank her for all she has done and look forward to what she will accomplish.

HONORING THE PENNGROVE SOCIAL FIREMEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Penngrove Social Firemen and the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Penngrove Social Welfare Club House.

The Penngrove Social Welfare Club was established in 1919 by a group of women from Penngrove, California, who were holding monthly social meetings at their homes. They held dances and card games at other halls in the area, but needed a place of their own to serve their community. The Penngrove Social Welfare Club and the Penngrove community pitched in to donate their time, money, and energy to construct the Penngrove Community Clubhouse where a Grand Opening was held on March 10, 1923. One month later they hosted the club's first public dance, charging a 50 and 75 cent admission fee.

In 1929, the Penngrove Social Welfare Club donated a parcel of land to build the much-needed firehouse for the Penngrove Volunteer Fire Department. More than two decades later, the fire department purchased four acres of land to develop the Penngrove Community Park. At this time the Penngrove Social Firemen were formed. In 1963, the Penngrove Social Welfare Club sold the clubhouse to the Penngrove Social Firemen. Since then, the clubhouse has served as a meeting place for folk dancers, Finnish community members, 4-H meetings, voting, and fundraiser dinners. In 1976, the Penngrove Parade was established by the Social Firemen to honor the country's Bicentennial and the parade has continued to be held ever since. Community members have fond memories of their elementary school graduations and Christmas pageants in the grand building on the corner of Woodward and Oak Streets.

From its humble beginnings the Penngrove Social Firemen has been an entirely self-funded, non-profit organization. The dedicated team of directors, officers, and members volunteer their time to maintain the clubhouse and the community park with an emphasis on supporting the community. The Firemen support many beloved community organizations

such as Penngrove School, Rancho Adobe Fire District, Petaluma Little League, Boys and Girls Scouts, Christmas for Kids, Penngrove 4-H, and Petaluma FFA.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that the Penngrove Social Firemen have devoted themselves to serving our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

CELEBRATING JOHN GIBBONS' SERVICE AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER FOR THE BELLEROSE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic accomplishments and career of John Gibbons.

A lifelong resident of Nassau County, Mr. Gibbons grew up in the Floral Park Bellerose community, graduating from Archbishop Molloy High School. He then moved to Bellerose Village in 2001. Mr. Gibbons is a family man, raising 4 kids: Anthony, Olivia, Katherine, and Elizabeth. In June, Mr. Gibbons will celebrate 30 years of marriage with his wife, Lori. On top of being a decorated fireman, John has worked in the banking and finance industries for nearly 3 decades.

John Gibbons has been a member of the Bellerose Volunteer Fire Department for 21 years on Long Island. John has risen through the ranks throughout his time there, holding many different positions because of his character and dedication to serving his community.

Mr. Gibbons has held both corporate officer positions and Firematic officer positions. During his time in the corporate office of the Bellerose Fire Department, Mr. Gibbons held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President. While working as a Firematic officer, Mr. Gibbons served in all Firematic officer positions: 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief, and is now serving as Chief of the Department.

While bravely serving the Bellerose community, Mr. Gibbons managed different programs and initiatives vital to the Department. While Mr. Gibbons was a Captain, John organized, supervised, and conducted 40 fire drills within a year. These drills incorporated all phases of firefighter training, preparing each firefighter for the next incident. As Chief of the Department, John is Incident Commander for all Fire Emergencies; in addition, John is the Incident Commander for 4 weeks of training at the Nassau County Fire Academy for Bellerose firefighters.

As an Ex-Chief of the Island Park Fire Department, I understand the importance of Mr. Gibbons' contributions to the Bellerose Fire Department and the surrounding community. John's long career is inspiring to other firefighters and his neighbors, but more importantly, John embodies the characteristics of an excellent fireman.

On behalf of New York's 4th District, I am esteemed to recognize his astounding career and his brave service as a firefighter. I wish John a bright, healthy, and exciting future.

RECOGNIZING ATTORNEY NEIL O'DONNELL, GREATER WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Attorney Neil O'Donnell who was named the Man of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. He was honored at the group's annual gathering on March 17, 2023.

Neil graduated with honors from Kings College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, before matriculating at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1987 and began practicing law that same year.

Neil spent three years working for the Philadelphia-based law firm of Baskin, Flaherty, Eliott & Mannino. He returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1990 and started the O'Donnell Law Offices. Over the past 30 years, Neil has grown the O'Donnell Law Offices into one of the leading legal practices in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He has cultivated an impressive reputation through his commitment to practicing to the highest standard.

In addition to the Pennsylvania Bar, Neil is admitted to the Middle District of Pennsylvania and Eastern District of Pennsylvania District Courts, the United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. For his legal acumen, he has been named to the Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Top 100, the National Trial Lawyers Top 100, Best Lawyers, American Society of Legal Advocates Top 100 Lawyer, Rue Ratings Best Attorneys of America and National Association of Distinguished Counsel. He also received a Martindale Hubble AV Preeminent Rating and is a Litigation Counsel of American Fellow. Neil has shared his extensive legal experience with his peers as a presenter for leading attorney groups like the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, Melvin Belli Society and the Brain Injury Association of California.

In addition to his legal practice, Neil has served as the chair of the Senatorial Advisory Committee Panel for the Selection of United States Attorneys and U.S. Marshals for the Eastern, Western and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania. He is the co-chair of the Senatorial Advisory Panel for the Selection of the U.S. District Court. This past November, Neil was named to the 11-person board for the Governor Josh Shapiro and Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis's Transition after their election.

I am honored to join with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons to recognize Neil as the Man of the Year. His career has been marked by impressive integrity and service to the legal profession, and I am proud to celebrate his many achievements and contributions to the field of law and our community. I wish him the best.

HONORING CHUCK McMINN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chuck McMinn, the St. Helena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for his excellent work in our community.

Mr. McMinn is a graduate of Harvard business school and a successful Silicon Valley entrepreneur. Mr. McMinn and his wife Anne purchased the Vineyard 29 winery in the Napa Valley in 1999. They began producing Cabernet Sauvignon and established a beacon of environmentally sustainable winemaking, combining a passion for excellent wine with responsible production. The winery uses an on-site well and generates electricity on-site, minimizing its impact on the Napa Valley ecosystem. These and other sustainability practices allow Vineyard 29 to be 250 percent more efficient in how it utilizes natural resources, ensuring that the area can continue to supporting winemaking for generations to come.

After moving to Napa Valley, Mr. McMinn has also worked tirelessly in various philanthropic pursuits to improve our area. Mr. McMinn founded Napa-Learns, a nonprofit devoted to providing students in Napa County with valuable skills and resources through innovative public education programs. He also founded the Rail Arts District, a contemporary outdoor art museum designed to extend the benefits of public art to the semi-industrial neighborhoods of Napa Valley. As a board member of the St. Helena Hospital Foundation, the St. Helena Viticultural Society, and Appellations St. Helena, Mr. McMinn has extended his time, passion, and energy to the Napa Valley community.

In addition, Mr. McMinn is the founder and board president of the nonprofit Napa Valley Vine Trail Coalition. Under his leadership, the Vine Trail board team has grown to include members and organizations representing a broad spectrum of community and civic interests. This dedicated all-volunteer team share a vision to build a continuous trail connecting the entire Napa Valley from Vallejo's Ferry Terminal to the foot of Mount St. Helena. The Vine Trail will link the entirety of Napa Valley, physically, culturally, and artistically. The benefits of such a trail include increased tourism, a safe and environmentally friendly commuting alternative, and greater access to the beautiful and diverse Napa community.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Mr. McMinn has worked selflessly for the betterment of the Napa Valley community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
RICHARD JOHNSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Johnson, who retires this March from 42 years of consummate service to the Town of Glastonbury—nearly 30 of

which have been as Town Manager. Richard's leadership has helped Glastonbury maintain its standing as a highly successful community in Connecticut, which I am proud to say has a large footprint in the Second District of Connecticut as a result of redistricting under the 2020 census. I have had the pleasure of knowing of Town Manager Johnson's work over the years as a Member of Congress, a state legislator and a town attorney from the neighboring town of Vernon and can personally attest to his dedication to the Town of Glastonbury.

Born in Avon, Richard has always been a true-blue, central Connecticut native and was destined to serve one of that region's many thriving communities. Armed with a Connecticut education—a bachelor's from Southern Connecticut State University and an MBA from the University of Connecticut—Richard was uniquely equipped to ensure Glastonbury's upward trajectory. Richard's career with the Town of Glastonbury began in 1980, first as Glastonbury's Parks and Recreation Director and then as Assistant Town Manager. With nearly 13 years of experience, he was appointed to the permanent position of Town Manager in 1993. Since becoming Town Manager, he has become an institution of knowledge in service of the town's interests.

As Town Manager, Richard has worked with 15 town councils, including some 50 community leaders. Richard brokered more than 60 land acquisitions and preservation projects, totaling more than 2,500 acres, that in his words, "helps shape the community, preserves our farms, open spaces, and riverfront land". Under his visionary leadership, the town acquired and converted brownfields into what is now the iconic Riverfront Park and Riverfront Community Center and Boathouse, the very location where his retirement celebration is to be held. His persistence and tenacity over the years also must not go unappreciated. For example, he recently helped the town achieve a multigenerational goal by way of the acquisition of a roughly 540-acre property, previously owned by the Metropolitan District Commission. Town Manager Johnson's leadership in this land acquisition demonstrates the strength of Glastonbury's officials and process, setting an example that ought to be emulated across the state and nation.

Richard has also famously worked to strengthen the town's capital improvement program, which led to its receiving of an AAA bond rating from both Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. These ratings have and will continue to bolster Glastonbury's ability to attract capital for municipal projects well beyond his retirement. As Glastonbury's steward for more than a generation, countless projects under Richard have rightfully been recognized on the national and local level.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Johnson's unwavering loyalty to and love for the Town of Glastonbury public has made him a fearless leader and honorable civil servant. Throughout his tenure, the town has been recognized with accolades including the Engineering Excellence Award, the National Recreation and Park Association's Innovation in Park Design Award, Climate Leader Designation, Nationally Accredited Police Department, and countless others. Richard's conscientious approach to leadership has forged him into the epitome of a good public servant. Though Glastonbury is

losing an institution of 42 years, we know that his contributions and mindful leadership have set Glastonbury forward for a new era of uncontested success. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating Richard Johnson on a well-earned retirement, thanking him and his family for his life of service.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of Pasco-Hernando State College. Pasco-Hernando State College combines high-tech educational facilities and state-of-the-art programs with a focus on teaching for student success. With six convenient locations, students can expect personalized attention, small class sizes, highly credentialed faculty, and tuition and fees that are among the most affordable in the State of Florida. The Associate in Arts (AA) degree program provides a solid foundation in the arts and sciences. Successful completion of PHSC's AA degree guarantees seamless transfer to one of Florida's public universities or state colleges at the junior level. PHSC provides training for more than 30 high demand careers in business, health, industry and technology, and public service through new bachelor's degree, Associate in Science degree and certificate programs. PHSC, offers educational opportunities for students of all ages and abilities. Their "Open Door" policy welcomes all high school graduates and GED recipients. Under the skillful leadership of Dr. Tim Beard, PHSC has a team of highly dedicated professionals working to provide students with valuable career preparation and education advancement opportunities. We are grateful for their efforts.

HONORING THE ART ASSOCIATION OF NAPA VALLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Art Association of Napa Valley as this all-volunteer arts organization celebrates its 75th Anniversary.

Founded in 1948, the Art Association of Napa Valley is a nonprofit arts organization, with a mission to foster a more inclusive environment for all individuals through the arts and to support local artists of all ages and backgrounds. Many in Napa Valley have come to know the Arts Association of Napa Valley through their art exhibits and their several facilities. Some of the most notable facilities they have to offer include their downtown Art Gallery, the art center on Berens Street, and a newly opened clay and glass center on Jefferson Street.

Throughout the decades, the Art Association of Napa Valley has contributed greatly to its

community through its constant advocacy for the arts. The organization has also been a pioneer in starting art festivals for the community, with its first one dating back to the 1950s. Today, the organization participates in the Arts in April festival, a valley wide celebration honoring the arts.

The Art Association of Napa Valley's philanthropic activities include providing scholarships for talented students who are pursuing an art career, organizing local art exhibits to display and market creations, and providing classes for those who wish to explore their artistic talents. Additionally, many students who have benefitted from the contributions of the Art Association of Napa Valley have pursued advanced degrees in the arts, with several earning a Master of Fine Arts degree.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Art Association of Napa Valley has not only contributed immensely to highlighting Napa Valley's unique artistic community, but also has uplifted and encouraged students to fulfill their artistic ambitions. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor here today the work of the Art Association of Napa Valley as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary of artistic advocacy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SARAH DEBBINK LANGENKAMP ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, more than 40,000 people were killed last year on America's roads. This tragic toll is unacceptable, even more so because every single one of these deaths is preventable.

Today, I am introducing legislation named for Sarah Debbink Langenkamp, who was killed while bicycling here in the Nation's capital.

Sarah was a U.S. diplomat whose family had just been evacuated from Kyiv. She was bicycling home from her children's new school in Bethesda on August 25, 2022, when she was struck and crushed by a flatbed truck.

She was riding in an unprotected bike lane on the shoulder of a five-lane urban highway, a route she was forced to take because it was the only connection between the low-traffic neighborhood street of the elementary school and the multi-use path to her home. While drivers are responsible for operating safely around cyclists and pedestrians, fixing gaps in infrastructure presents opportunities to build safe systems that could have protected Sarah.

Disconnected and incomplete networks are unfortunately common features of bicyclist and pedestrian infrastructure in the United States.

These gaps in infrastructure present serious dangers. Deaths and injuries of pedestrians and bicyclists have grown dramatically in recent years, rising to the highest levels in decades, and now make up 20 percent of traffic deaths. This legislation encourages the construction of complete active transportation networks, separated from vehicle roadways, which will contribute to safer trips and fewer deaths on our roads.

I look forward to working my colleagues in the House and Senate to pass this legislation

in memory of Sarah and every other person killed on our Nation's roads.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DICK MANN

HON. MARK ALFORD

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize a true American Patriot, Mr. Dick Mann of Webster County, Missouri.

Mr. Mann began his career of public service in the United States Marine Corps, where he served in active duty from 1968 to 1974. From then until 1992, he served in the Army Reserves as a medic in a preventative medicine unit.

He continued his service to his community while serving as an Environmental Public Health Specialist and Emergency Planner from 2007 to 2013 for the Webster County Health Unit. In these roles, Dick was responsible for food and drinking water safety and quality, developing response and mitigation plans for large scale public health emergencies, and child daycare facility safety for Webster County residents. Since 2015, Dick has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Webster County Health Unit.

Additionally, Mr. Mann has served as a community mentor for families struggling with addiction, the American Red Cross representative for Webster County, and as a member of the Local Emergency Planning & Disaster Management Committee.

I stand here today to congratulate Dick Mann on his retirement, to extend my gratitude for his many years of exceptional service to our community and to our great Nation, and to wish him the best of luck in his next endeavor.

HONORING STEVEN ROGERS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yountville's Town Manager, Steven Rogers, for his excellent work serving our community and congratulate him as he begins his retirement.

Mr. Rogers has been a devoted servant in California local governments for 37 years. He is the longest serving town manager in Napa Valley County history, being chosen in 2007 and serving for 15 years. Mr. Rogers was awarded Citizen of the Year by the Yountville's Chamber of Commerce in 2012. Under his leadership, Yountville navigated through challenges such as the Great Recession, Campbell wildfire outbreak, the Yountville mass shooting in 2018, and the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In addition, Mr. Rogers is recognized for his contributions in bolstering Yountville's financial position. As Town Manager, Mr. Rogers is noted for delivering balanced budgets, having an influential role in creating the Town's Revenue Stabilization Fund and Napa County's Tourism Improvement District. Steve is also

recognized for overseeing the construction of the Yountville Community Center, renovating the municipal wastewater treatment plant, and retrofitting Town Hall. Mr. Rogers has represented the town proudly through his roles on the Board of Directors of the California Insurance Risk Authority, Chair of the Napa County City Managers Group, and as the elected President of the League of California Cities City Managers Department.

Mr. Rogers has been a champion of civil rights and ensuring a more sustainable

Yountville. He worked with the Town Council in establishing a new flag policy to ensure the raising of the LGBTQ+ Rainbow Pride Flag during Pride Month. Mr. Rogers was influential in the adoption of pesticide bans, installation of electric vehicle charging stations, expansion of the Town's recycled water system, and more.

When he is not serving the people of Yountville and California, Mr. Rogers is cheering on his alma mater's football team, the Michigan Wolverines.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Steven Rogers has not only served the Town of Yountville proudly, but the entire state of California. Mr. Rogers' positive influence will be felt for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him today, thank him for his service, and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.